

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 05790 181618Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 IO-14 /038 W
-----032574 181621Z /44

R 171204Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO AMEMBASSY RABAT
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2182
USDA WASHDC

UNCLAS TUNIS 5790

DEPT PASS AID

RABAT FOR AGATTACHE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, TS
SUBJ: OUTLOOK FOR TUNISIAN CEREALS IMPORTS: UPDATE

1. DEPUTY DIRECTOR MOUAFFAK OF CEREALS OFFICE TOLD E/C
COUNSELOR AUGUST 16 THAT PRESENT OUTLOOK IS FOR IMPORTS
OF ABOUT 800,000 MT OF ALL GRAINS FOR CROP YEAR ENDING
JUNE 30, 1979.

2. DATA HE WAS DRAWING UPON WAS LITTLE CHANGED FROM THAT
AVAILABLE TO AGATTACHE PAISON DURING LATE JUNE VISIT.
MOUAFFAK SAID PRECISE FIGURES WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL
LATE SEPTEMBER BUT PRESENT EXPECTATION IS THAT CEREALS
OFFICE AND ITS TWO AFFILIATED COOPERATIVES WILL BE
ABLE TO ACQUIRE ONLY 270-280,000 TONS OF DOMESTIC
GRAIN PRODUCTION TOTALLING ABOUT 800,000 TONS.
(BREAKDOWN OF OATTER, STILL ON BASIS OF MAY 25 SURVEY,
IS 490,000 TONS OF WHEAT, 150,000 TONS OF SOFT WHEAT,
AND 160,000 TONS OF BARLEY.)

3. BALANCE OF 1978-79 NEEDS FOR DISTRIBUTION THROUGH
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OFFICIAL MARKETING CHANNELS TO COME FROM IMPORTS
ESTIMATED TO RANGE UP TO ABOUT 360,000 TONS OF SOFT
WHEAT, 200,000 TONS OF DURUM, 130,000 TONS OF
BARLEY AND 200,000 TONS OF CORN.

4. TOTAL CEREAL CONSUMPTION FOR CROP YEAR ESTIMATED
AT 1.4 MILLION TONS AND TOTAL USAGEN, INCLUDING SEED

AND STOCK CHANGES, AT 1.6 MILLION TONS.

5. MOUAFFAK SAID THAT IN VIEW OF VERY SIZEABLE IMPORT NEEDS FOR NEW CROP YEAR, PARTLY RELATED TO LESS THAN HOPED FROM PL 480 TITLE I ALLOCATION FOR FY 1978, UNOFFICIAL PLANNING FIGURE IN CEREALS OFFICE IN FOR FY 1979 TITLE I REQUEST FOR WHEAT AND CORN TOTALLING ABOUT 200,000 TONS. FORMAL REQUEST LIKELY TO BE SUBMITTED TO EMBASSY, VIA MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AROUND OCTOBER 1.

6. FYI: MOUAFFAK SAID THAT CEREALS OFFICE ON JULY 27 MADE COMMERCIAL PURCHASE IN USA OF WHEAT TO REPLACE LOST CARGO OF 15,300 TONS OF TITLE I WHEAT WHICH WENT DOWN WITH S.S. YELLOWSTONE.

7. COMMENT: RETURN VISIT OF AGATTACHE PAISON IN LATE SEPTEMBER WOULD BE WELL-TIMED FOR OBTAINING FURTHER PRECISION AND IMPORT NEEDS.

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 aug 1978
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1703929
Secure: OPEN
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TAGS: EAGR, TS
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